

Natural Resource News

www.fs.fed.us/r6/fremont or www.fs.fed.us/r6/winema
www.or.blm.gov/Lakeview

Fremont-Winema National Forests
Lakeview District BLM
August 20, 2004

Contact: Rowena Ponce
541-883-6715 or 541-885-4171

File Code 1120 BLM/1650 FS

USDA's Fremont-Winema National Forests
(Includes Bly, Chemult, Chiloquin, Klamath, Lakeview, Paisley, and Silver Lake Ranger Districts)
USDI's Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District
(Includes Klamath Falls and Lakeview Resource Areas)

For Immediate Release

Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Committee Views Restoration Projects

The Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) held their annual field trip in Klamath County on July 28. The trip gave the RAC the opportunity to take a closer look at projects they recommended for funding. "It was so good to physically be at the sites we'd discussed and recommended," said Chuck Wells of Chiloquin, a RAC member since 2002.

The Fremont-Winema RAC is responsible for the second-largest pool of Title II monies in the country – over \$3.0 million per year for Klamath and Lake County projects. Title II is the part of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 that provides funds for counties to use for forest restoration, maintenance, or stewardship projects.

Bill Aney, the designated Forest Service official responsible for the Fremont-Winema RAC, believes that this RAC is making a difference in southeastern Oregon. "This group has put their focus on projects that put local contractors to work at the important business of forest restoration. Because of the projects that this RAC has approved, we have seen an increase in the number of local contractors successfully bidding on projects, and we are also seeing a change in the condition of forests and watersheds"

On the field tour, the RAC visited projects that restored and maintained water quality and streamside habitats while providing camping and other recreation opportunities; removed hazardous fuels, improved aspen stands by removing competing conifers, and restored a 300 acre wetland.

The RAC consists of 15 members, representing a variety of interest categories, as well as one replacement member for each category. These categories include organized labor, developed outdoor recreation, energy and mineral development, timber, grazing, environmental interests, archaeological and historical interests, wild horse and burro, state or county elected office, American Indian tribes, school officials and public-at-large.

= End =